

even the pittance which the official with the princely salary will deign to allow you. If you show a little independence, why the company can get some one else to do the work, and gladly. In this game of death insurance everything seems to have been forgotten except how to get the most money to gamble with and to pay enormous salaries to exalted officials. We published a letter from the medical director of one of the companies, some months ago, in which he said: "If the doctors will not make examination for this (\$3.00) fee, we will get some one else who will." Certainly. Nice safe company for one to insure in. All that's wanted is new business, whether good healthy risks or not. Who cares, so long as that \$2.00 is saved from the examiner's fee and given to the president to juggle with. It would seem that a little more honesty injected into the management of life insurance companies might not do any harm.

From time to time inquiry is made at the office of the Society either for available locations or for men to take such openings. It is a pleasure to be of assistance in these matters and we trust that no one will ever think it a trouble or a bother to the Secretary to give his aid whenever possible. Just at the present time there are two or three openings which the right man might secure and develop into good locations. If you happen to want a place to settle in, or if you wish to change your location, or if you desire to secure some one to take your place, either temporarily or permanently, just let us know. Make the office of the society a sort of clearing house for medical information of all sorts, and let this be one of the "sorts." One place which we have in mind would seem to be an excellent location for a well qualified man who desires to devote himself largely to surgery. Another offers a good opening to a man who would like to do a general country practice, with a fair share of surgery, and who has a small amount of capital—a very few hundred dollars—to invest in the present equipment. If the Secretary can serve you in any of these ways, do not hesitate to call upon him for his assistance.

No one who practices medicine, and especially no one who does much fracture work, but dreads, sooner or later, the affliction of the blackmailing malpractice suit. McCormack has said that nine times out of ten some jealous or disgruntled fellow practitioner may be found behind such suits, backing up the plaintiff, if not indeed inspiring him to sue. This is probably true, and the remedy he suggests is ideal; closer and more friendly relations between the members of our profession and more perfect and harmonious organization. Indeed this remedy of organization is no mere theory, for in Pennsylvania and New York, malpractice suits have come to be almost unknown, simply because they are investi-

gated and defended by the medical organizations in those states. These facts being in mind, a little book entitled "How to Suppress a Malpractice Suit," by Thomas Hall Shastid, M. D., which reached us a short time ago, produces a distinct shock. The author seems to think that practically every malpractice suit is backed by some jealous physician, and the method for suppression which he suggests is truly kind, upright, fair, charitable and honest. It is merely this: Find out who the physician behind the plaintiff is, then find out something derogatory to him, and blackmail him into withdrawing his support. If he is, or if you can make him appear to be the unfortunate victim of some habit, let him know that you will disclose your knowledge unless he withdraws from the support of the plaintiff. Or find some disgruntled patient of the physician, and induce him, in turn, to bring a suit against the other physician. If you cannot locate any physician back of the plaintiff, try and find out whether the patient suing has syphilis; if so, and you let the jury know it at the right time, your case is won, because of the general disgust for those afflicted with this loathsome disease! Nice Christian doctrine? Not one word of more friendly relations between physicians; not a hint of the value of close organization and of concerted and friendly action; not one suggestion that is not for trickery and for stirring up more strife, bitterness and ill feeling in a profession where such sensations are only too common at best! As a contrast to this disgusting preachment, turn to Howard Kelly's life of Walter Reed. It is an inspiration. Seldom has a book come into our hands which was read with greater interest, or the reading of which left a better "taste in the mouth." It may seem, as one passes through the years of hard and unappreciated work, that such work merely for one's own mental betterment, is hardly worth while. Yet the day will come for each one of us in his own way, when the result of that work will appear in the readiness to grasp the opportunity and to do the thing that would be beyond our doing, but for the years of hard grind. It is difficult to avoid an expression of personal obligation to Dr. Kelly for presenting to our profession in such a grateful fashion the life of Walter Reed. By all means read it; you will feel the better for having done so, and you will work the better.

From all accounts, the unchecked riot of crime, of "hold up" and robbery, of looting and murdering in San Francisco gets worse rather than better as the weeks go by. It has come to pass that to be on the streets after dark is to court robbery or worse, and to visit certain sections of the city at night is almost to insure this welcome. To physicians, especially, such a condition of things is a constant menace, for the physician may be called at any time to any part of the city. Already at least one of our San Francisco brothers has been "held up," and another barely missed that distressing experi-

BAD BOOKS AND GOOD.

SAN FRANCISCO PHYSICIANS.